ThoughtWorks®

Brain Food

conundrums for your mind

Lateral Thinking Teasers

1. In what sport do the winners go backwards while the losers go forwards?

2. This is an unusual day, and so is this paragraph. How quickly can you find out what is so uncommon about it? It looks so ordinary that you may think nothing is odd about it until you match it with most paragraphs this long. If you put your mind to it, and study it, you will find out, but nobody may assist you. Do it without any coaching. Go to work and try your skill at figuring it out. Good Luck!

3. Find a common word that ends in 'MT'?

4. On the way to a watering hole, a pony met 6 giraffes. Each giraffe had 3 monkeys hanging from its neck. Each monkey had 2 squirrels on its tail. Each squirrel had 2 birds on its back. How many animals were going to the watering hole?

5. "I never was, am always to be,
No one ever saw me, nor ever will
And yet I am the confidence of all
To live and breathe on this terrestrial ball."
Hint: It never dies

6. "The beginning of eternity
The end of time and space
The beginning of every end,
And the end of every place."
Hint: It's in front of you right now.

7. If you had only one match and entered a COLD and DARK room, where there was an oil heater, an oil lamp and a candle, which would you light first?

8. How many animals of each species did Moses take with him in the Ark?

9. A plane crashes on the Canadian - US border. Where would you bury the survivors?

10. A cowboy rode into town on Friday, spent the night, and left on Friday. How can this be?

** for answers go here - http://www.workwiththegeeks.com/bfq.htm*

11. There is a man who lives on the top floor of a very tall building. Everyday he takes the elevator down to the ground floor to leave the building to go to work. Upon returning from work though, he can only travel half way up in the lift and has to walk the rest of the way unless it's raining! Why?

12. A man and his son are in a car accident. The father dies on the scene, but the child is rushed to the hospital. When he arrives the surgeon says, "I can't operate on this boy, he is my son!" How can this be?

13. A man is wearing black. Black shoes, socks, trousers, lumper, gloves and suit. He is walking down a black street with all the street lamps off. A black car is coming towards him with its light off but somehow manages to stop in time. How did the driver see the man?

14. If a rooster laid an egg on the apex of a slanted barn roof, which way would the egg roll, left or right?

15. Picture a bridge four kilometers long and strong enough to hold ten thousand kilograms, but no more. A loaded transport truck weighing exactly ten thousand kilograms drives onto the bridge. At the halfway point, a sparrow weighing 30 grams lands on the truck, yet the bridge doesn't collapse. How could this be?

16. What can explode slowly, with no smoke or flame?

17. I can stick a pin into a balloon without it making a noise or releasing any air. How?

18. A man is driving through the city like a maniac. There is a woman in the back seat. The man stops the car and jumps out. When the man returns the woman is dead and there is a stranger in the car? Explain what happened.

19. Two boxers are in a boxing match (regular boxing, not kick boxing). The fight is scheduled for 12 rounds but ends after 6 rounds, after one boxer knocks out the other boxer. Yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible?

20. I dig out tiny caves, and store gold and silver in them. I also build bridges of silver and make crowns of gold. They are the smallest you could imagine. Sooner or later everybody needs my help yet many people are afraid to let me help them. Who am I?

* *for answers go here - http://www.workwiththegeeks.com/bfq.htm*

IT Teasers

1. Back in the mid to late 80's, an IBM compatible computer wasn't considered a hundred percent compatible unless it could run _____.

2. In SUN Microsystems, What does SUN stand for?

3. Memphis was the code name for _____

4. What is the three finger salute in computer terminology?

5. Where will you be if you are in Infinite loop, Bay Area, CA?

6.Who wrote the memoirs "Odyssey: Pepsi to Apple"?

7.Who was the Time Man of the Year 1999?

8.How did Sabeer Bhatia get the name Hotmail?

9. Where will you find Celtic ruins, Landstrasse, Dolphin cove, Kindiak Park, route Adonf, Durham route and the Snowy ridge?

10. Which Microsoft product gets its name from the building in which it was made?

11. 'Asimo' is the advanced humanoid robot from which company?

12. Which famous individual said these words: "640KB (of memory) should be enough for anybody"?

13. Who's known as the 'Father of the Internet'?

14. What does WIPRO stand for?

15. In 1947, a company called Galvin Manufacturing changed its name to....?

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16. Who is a screenager?

17. Which group designed COBOL ?

18. What is the name of Linux's penguin mascot?

19. Which company developed WinZip?

20. Who is the originator of the concept of Artificial Intelligence?

21. Guidelines for behavior on the Internet are called _____.

22. A message given to a Web browser by a Web server is a _____.

23. 'WYSIWYG' is a great little computer word. What does it stand for?

24. Who was the first person to discover a computer bug?

25. What does ZDNet stand for?

29. Which software firm required all its employees to report to work in blue suits only until the late 70's ?

27. Who created PERL in 1986? (*)

28. In Windows XP, Mac OS etc, you often hear of PnP. What is PnP?

29. Expand CMOS

30. In printers, etc - color scheme is CMYK. Expand

31. This company has produced several multimedia and graphics plugins and authoring tools such as ShockWave, Dreamweaver, etc for Multimedia and Web authoring. Name it

32. Why are Apple products called "Mackintosh", "Newton", "Pippin" etc ?

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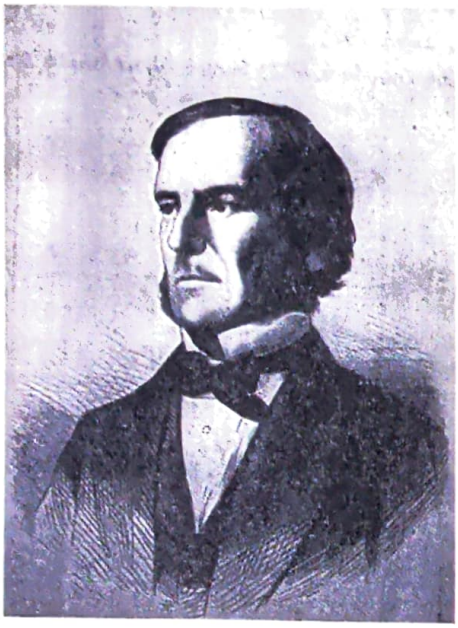
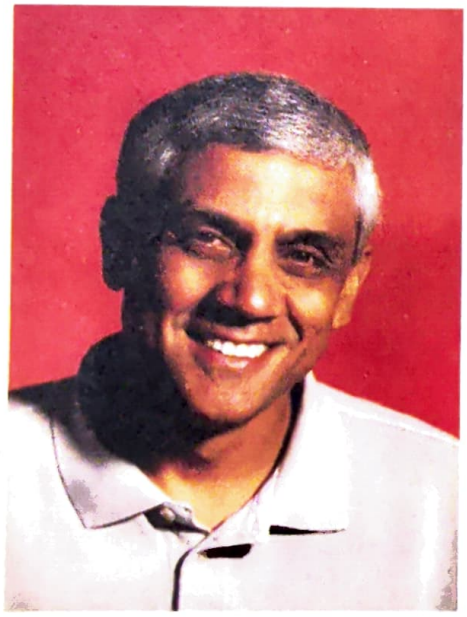
See & Tell

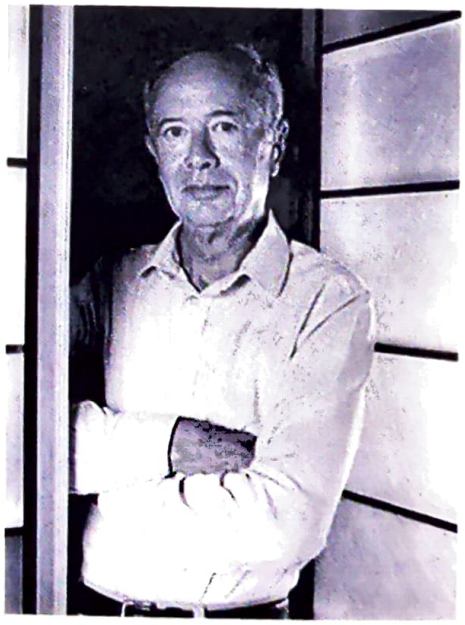


1. Identify this gentleman.

2. Identify this founder.



3. This co-founder of Sun Microsystems, was declared the most successful entrepreneur by Fortune in Year 2000.



4. This man was Intel's 3rd employee. Identify him.

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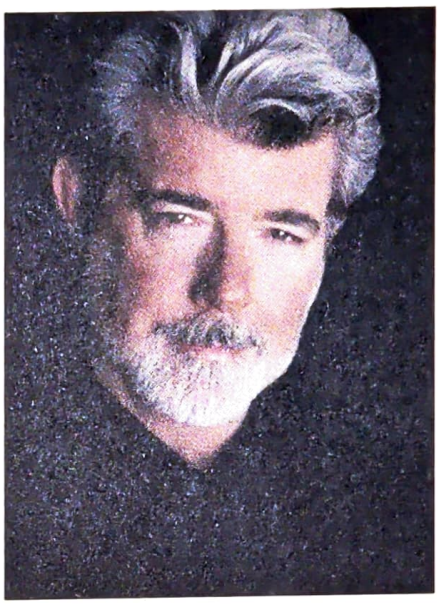
5. Identify this famous sci-fi author



6. Identify this director, whose films are famous for CGI and animation.

7. What is unique about the F and J keys on a QWERTY keyboard or typewriter ?

8. This young man was arrested for running a red light and driving without a license. Who is he ?

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Manifesto for Agile Software Development

"We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value.

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan.

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more".
(excerpts from the Agile Manifesto)

At ThoughtWorks, we apply these tenets of the Agile manifesto to all aspects of our work, every single day. This translates into an organisation where managers aren't bosses. Where the respect you get has nothing to do with your title. Where 'early adoption' is not a concept talked about only by the marketing department. Where contributing to Open Source is the norm rather than the exception. And where, most importantly, problems get solved.

ThoughtWorks Revolutionising How Software Is Delivered.

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